

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OF

NEW-BRUNSWICK.

ANNUAL REPORT—1863.

THE Council of the Natural History Society in presenting their Second Annual Reports feel warranted in congratulating the members on the progress made during the year, in carrying out the objects for which the Society was formed. The details of this progress will be briefly brought before you under its various heads.

MEMBERS.

During the past year 7 life, 4 corresponding and 6 ordinary members—17 in all—have been added to the Roll; and in the same period six have withdrawn, and one died.

PAPEES.

Ten papers have been read since the last Annual Meeting, namely:—

Remarks on Certain Theories concerning the Origin of Species—Dr. Sinclair.

The early History of the Province—Mr. Justice Parker.

The Natural Causes of Variety and Complexion in the Human Species—Dr. Hamilton.

A letter on the practical theory of Natural History—Mr. C. F. Hartt.

Observations on the Geology of the County of St. John—Mr. Geo. Matthew.

Meteorology with summaries of observations made in St. John, between 1850 and 1852—Mr. G. Murdock.

General view of the Methods of Study of Natural History—Dr. Hamilton.

Reptiles of Acadia—Mr. C. F. Hartt.

Observations on Phrenology as a Science—Dr. Sinclair.

Ocean Drifts and Currents, and their effects upon Islands far removed from Continents—T. Matthew Jones, Esq., of Halifax.

Of the above a number have been published in our Journals and the Canadian "Naturalist," and have been highly spoken of.

Mr. Murdock's paper on Meteorology is in course of being published by the Board of Agriculture in an appendix to their Report, where it will undoubtedly prove highly useful.

MUSEUM.

The Council have much pleasure in calling attention to the numerous and interesting additions to the Society's Collection, and to the progress made in arranging and classifying its contents. The zealous Curator has been prevented by physical disability from taking any part in this work, and for the great improvement now observable, the Society is mainly indebted to Mr. C. F. Hartt, who during the summer and autumn devoted much time and labour to the museum. Among the valuable additions to various departments the Council cannot pass

without special notice the donation by Dr. Fiske of a nearly complete set of the Anatacæ found in the Province. Mr. Hartt also has contributed a valuable collection of New England Reptiles, Molluscæ, and Marine Invertebrates, which had been carefully compared by him with the specimens in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Mass., and, being now correctly labelled, will be serviceable in determining many species existing in the Lower Provinces. The Society is also much indebted to Mr. Jolly who has mounted its collection of Insects and presented a large number in addition obtained near this city. The Brazilian birds given by Mr. Ketchum have been stuffed and mounted by Mr. A. C. Otty, a corresponding member, in a manner very creditable to his taste and skill. The Curator has been enabled to make a few exchanges by which some Silurian fossils from Tennessee, and some valuable minerals from the Western States have been added to the Cabinet. As the Society has a large number of duplicate specimens of both minerals and fossils, numerous and valuable additions to the museum might be obtained by exchange, if members would make known this fact to friends abroad interested in natural science. The Council cannot conclude this part of their report without congratulating the Society on the acquisition of Mr. Hartt's very interesting and valuable collection of Devonian Fossils, from the "Fern Ledges" of Lancaster, numbering over 8,000. Through the energy of the Committee which undertook to procure funds, and the liberality of our fellow citizens, this purchase, it is hoped will not deprive the Society of any part of the small income which is so much needed for its ordinary purposes. The Council are informed that there is still about \$100 wanting to complete the amount due Mr. Hartt, but they have no doubt that means will be contrived to raise that sum without drawing from the Society's ordinary funds.

The following summary of the contents of the museum will shew what has been accomplished altogether in this department, and the list of Donations appended to this Report the additions of the past year:—

Minerals and Fossils,	10,000
Marine Invertebrates and Shells,	2,000
Insect,	750
Bottles containing alcoholic specimens,	82
Birds, (native.)	30
(foreign,)	30
Plants,	500
Total,	13,312